

CLASS J FELONY, AND TO PROVIDE THAT THE TAKING OF A DOG FOR TEMPORARY PURPOSES IS A MISDEMEANOR.

Whereas, it is generally known that the dog is mankind's best friend; and

Whereas, the Plott Hound breed originated in the mountains of North Carolina in 1750 and is the only breed known to have originated in this State; and

Whereas, the Plott Hound is a legendary hunting dog known as a most courageous fighter and tenacious tracker as well as a gentle and extremely loyal companion to the hunters of North Carolina; and

Whereas, the Plott Hound is regarded as having the most beautifully colored coat of any hound and a spine-tingling, bugle-like call; and

Whereas, the State of North Carolina is fortunate to have the Plott Hound, which is one of only four breeds known to be of American origin: Now, therefore,

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. Chapter 145 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

" § 145-13. The State dog.

The Plott Hound is adopted as the official dog of the State of North Carolina."

Sec. 2. G.S. 14-81 reads as rewritten:

" § 14-81. Larceny of horses, mules, swine, ~~and cattle~~, cattle, or dogs.

(a) Larceny of horses, mules, swine, or cattle is a Class H felony.

(a1) Larceny of a dog is a Class J felony.

(b) In sentencing a person convicted of violating this section, the judge shall, as a minimum punishment, place a person on probation subject to the following conditions:

(1) A person must make restitution for the damage or loss caused by the larceny of the ~~livestock~~, livestock or dogs, and

(2) A person must pay a fine of not less than the amount of the damages or loss caused by the larceny of the ~~livestock~~, livestock or dogs.

(c) No provision in this section shall limit the authority of the judge to sentence the person convicted of violating this section to an active sentence."

Sec. 3. G.S. 14-82 reads as rewritten:

" § 14-82. Taking ~~horses or mules~~ horses, mules, or dogs for temporary purposes.